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INTERVIEW OF DR. HERMINIO PORTELL-VILA
RE ARTICLE IN "BOHEMIA LIBRE" CONCERNING
ASSASSINATION

Dr. HERMINIO PORTELL-VILA, 4740 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., former Professor of History at the University of Havana, who came to the United States in 1960 as a political refugee from the CASTRO Regime, advised on February 17, 1964, that among other pursuits he writes articles for the Spanish language weekly magazine "Bohemia Libre," published in New York City. Among these was one which appeared in the December 22, 1963, issue, and was entitled, "President KENNEDY's Strange Assassination."

A translation of this article reflects Dr. PORTELL-VILA described, among other matters, the background of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, the accused assassin. Dr. PORTELL-VILA wrote OSWALD had visited the Consulates of the Soviet Union and Communist Cuba in Mexico City weeks before the attempt against Mr. KENNEDY with the "apparent purpose" of obtaining a communist transit visa to return to the Soviet Union, employing the methods used two years ago by two North American counterespionage officials, MARTIN and MITCHELL. Later in the article he stated that OSWALD was a sympathizer of the Soviet Union and Communist Cuba and had just arranged a trip to those countries. Further, after reporting the shooting, he related that OSWALD fled from the book store; however, he was not able to continue the flight he had planned to cross the border into Mexico and go on to Communist Cuba; that someone failed to help him at that critical moment and things got complicated when he killed a policeman.

The article then continued that twenty minutes later the Mexican Government ordered the closing of the border with the United States. The plane "Britania" of the stolen Compania Cubana de Aviacion was approaching Mexico City from Havana when the radio gave the news of President KENNEDY's assassination which was confirmed when it arrived in the "City of Palaces." OSWALD was not able to enter Mexico again or to reach the "Britania" in which he planned to reach Havana.

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In the last paragraph of the article, the writer indicated that the material set forth in his article explained why a special commission was assigned to render a last verdict on President KENNEDY's strange assassination while it was evident that OSWALD had accomplices unidentified to date who were much more crafty than he.

Dr. PORTELL-VILA, on February 17, 1964, explained that the material for the above article was obtained from public source material such as American newspapers and magazines, and foreign language newspapers and publications. He wrote the article in the last days of November or the first days of December, 1963.

With reference to OSWALD's planned flight to cross the border into Mexico and go on to Communist Cuba, he said he had no direct or specific knowledge of same; that this was conjecture on his part resulting from an analogy to the flight of MARTIN and MITCHELL.

With reference to OSWALD and the plane "Britania" from Cuba, he said he again had no specific or direct knowledge pertaining to OSWALD using this plane to escape. It appeared logical to PORTELL-VILA that OSWALD would use this regular plane run to Cuba from Mexico if he had planned to go to Cuba after escaping to Mexico. By the use of the word "stolen," PORTELL-VILA meant that the aviation company involved had been expropriated by the CASTRO Government; that the airline, and thus the plane "Britania" of that airline, was then in the hands of CASTRO and in this sense "stolen" from the rightful owners of the airline.

By City of Palaces, he meant Mexico City. He said Mexicans referred to Mexico City by that description.

Although PORTELL-VILA said he concluded in his article that it was evident that OSWALD had unidentified accomplices, he stated that this again was conjecture on his part, a summation based on his personal analysis of the event. He had no direct or specific knowledge that there were any accomplices, he said.

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PORTILL-VILA said he read in a November 29, 1963, publication that in a speech on November 27, 1963, FIDEL CASTRO, whether through a slip of the tongue or as the result of the influence of liquor, made a comment which suggested that OSWALD may have previously made at least one visit to Cuba. He conjectured that this trip of OSWALD could have taken place while he was in Mexico last year or perhaps while he was in Russia. He said he had no additional information in this regard.